

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 02481 151727Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 /090 W  
-----152255Z 050704 /75-61

R 151600Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2785  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ROME 2481

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, RH, VT  
SUBJ: RHODESIA--VATICAN REACTION TO SLAYING OF MISSIONARIES

1. POPE PAUL IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT ONSUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE FEBRUARY 7 KILLING OF SEVEN CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES IN MUSAMI, RHODESIA. ALTHOUGH HE SAID A "RACIAL FIGHT" IS BEING REPRESSED IN RHODESIA, THE PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES OF MISSIONARIES IS EXTRANEIOUS TO IT AND THAT "THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH CAUSE OF JUSTICE ENTITLES THEM TO GRATITUDE AND SYMPATHY." THUS HE HOPED THAT THIS "EPISODE OF BLIND VIOLENCE" WAS TEMPORARY.

2. /COMMENT/: POPE PAUL WAS PARTICULARLY DISTRESSED BY THIS INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE BY BLACK GUERRILLAS AGAINST CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES BECAUSE THE CHURCH IN RHODESIA HAS BEEN PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE CAUSE OF RACIAL JUSTICE FOR THE BLACK MAJORITY. IN FACT, BISHOP DONAL LAMONT, THE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF UMTALI, HAS BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL SYMBOL FOR THIS CAUSE, AND ONLY YESTERDAY, FEBRUARY 14, HE APPEALED A 10-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE FOR NOT REPORTING THE PRESENCE OF BLACK NATIONALIST GUERRILLAS IN HIS DIOCESE TO THE AUTHORITIES.BEAUDRY  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RELIGIOUS LEADERS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, DEATHS, MISSIONARIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** RHODESIA--VATICAN REACTION TO SLAYING OF MISSIONARIES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, RH, VT, (PAUL, POPE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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